

or stepchild's eligibility is extended until he reaches age 23; or unless

(ii) He is under a disability as defined in section 223(d) of the Social Security Act and such disability began before he attained age 18 (see 202(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act).

(c) A child or stepchild is not entitled to claim benefits for any month for which a widow of a miner establishes entitlement to benefits.

§ 722.114 Parents, brothers, or sisters.

(a) An individual shall be entitled to claim for and receive benefits if:

(1) Such individual is the parent, brother, or sister of a deceased miner; and if

(2) Such individual, for not less than 1 year prior to the miner's death, was living in the same household as the miner and was totally dependent on the miner for support; and if

(3) The deceased miner was entitled to benefits at the time of his death, or his death is determined to have been due to pneumoconiosis, or at the time of his death was totally disabled by pneumoconiosis; and,

(4) In the case of a parent, if the deceased miner was not survived by a widow or child at the time of his death; and,

(5) In the case of a brother or sister, if the deceased miner was not survived by a widow, child or parent at the time of his death; and,

(6) In the case of a brother, he also is under 18 years of age unless he is a full-time student or under a disability as described in § 722.113(b)(3) in which case his eligibility shall be extended as is appropriate.

(b) No benefits to a sister or brother shall be payable for any month beginning with the month in which he or she receives support from his or her spouse, or marries.

(c) The individuals described in this section shall be eligible to claim for or receive benefits until such time as the requirements for eligibility cease.

CRITERIA: CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS

§ 722.115 Claims generally.

In order to assure that a State workmen's compensation law will provide adequate coverage for total disability

or death due to pneumoconiosis, such law shall contain or shall be implemented by available rules and regulations which establish a comprehensive and viable scheme for the filing and processing of claims. If filing and processing procedures in any State are substantially informal, such State shall include in its application to be included on the Secretary's list, a full description of such State's filing and processing procedures, copies of any material disseminated to individuals to assist them in pursuing a claim, and a full description, including exemplary cases, of the time periods required by such State to fully process such claims. No State workmen's compensation law shall be included on the Secretary's list if it appears that any class of claimants shall be subject to inordinate delays, unnecessarily protracted proceedings, unnecessarily difficult requirements of proof, or other unwarranted difficulties in the pursuit of a claim.

§ 722.116 Time limitations on filing claims.

(a) No State workmen's compensation law shall be deemed to provide adequate coverage for total disability or death due to pneumoconiosis unless the determination of claims filed pursuant to it shall be permitted:

(1) In the case of claims for disability benefits, if filed within 3 years of the date of the discovery of total disability due to pneumoconiosis; or

(2) In the case of claims for death benefits, if filed within 3 years of the date of such death;

(3) And in the case of any claim for benefits predicated upon the presumption contained in section 411(c)(4) of part B of title IV of the Act (see § 722.119);

(i) If in the case of total disability due to pneumoconiosis it is filed within 3 years from the date of last exposed employment in a coal mine; or

(ii) If in the case of death from a respiratory or pulmonary impairment for which benefits would be payable under section 411(c)(4) of the Act, incurred as a result of employment in a coal mine, it is filed within 15 years from the date of last exposed employment in a coal mine.

(b) Any State workmen's compensation law which provides longer periods for filing a claim subsequent to the events specified in this section shall be deemed to have met the requirements described herein. Any State workmen's compensation law which provides shorter time limitations on filing a claim, or which commences the period for filing a claim beginning with an event which is more restrictive than those specified in this section, shall be deemed not to have met the requirements of this section.

CRITERIA: MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING WHETHER MINER'S TOTAL DISABILITY OR DEATH WAS DUE TO PNEUMOCONIOSIS

§ 722.117 Medical criteria—generally.

Section 402(f) of the Act authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish and promulgate standards and medical criteria for determining whether a miner is totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis, whether a miner's death was due to pneumoconiosis, and whether a miner was totally disabled by pneumoconiosis at the time of his death. Section 421(b)(2)(C) of the Act requires that in order for a State to be included on the Secretary's list, such State must promulgate standards for determining death or total disability due to pneumoconiosis which are substantially equivalent to those promulgated by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (see 20 CFR part 410, subpart D) and adopted pursuant to sections 415(a) and 422(c) of the Act by the Secretary of Labor in respect of claims filed subsequent to June 30, 1973 (see 20 CFR part 718). Therefore, no State shall be included on the Secretary's list if it does not by statute or published formal rules and regulations provide standards which are substantially equivalent to or less restrictive than those standards published by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in subpart D of 20 CFR part 410 as amended on September 30, 1972 (37 FR 20641-20645).

§ 722.118 Medical evidence.

No State workmen's compensation law shall be included on the Sec-

retary's list unless such law or regulations promulgated thereunder provide that no claim shall be denied solely on the basis of a chest roentgenogram and, that in determining the validity of claims all evidence shall be considered, including, where relevant, medical tests such as blood gas studies, X-ray examination, electrocardiogram, pulmonary function studies, or physical performance tests, and any medical history, evidence pertaining to future employability, evidence submitted by a miner's physician, or a miner's wife's affidavits, and in the case of a deceased miner, autopsy, biopsy, or other appropriate affidavits of persons with knowledge of the miner's physical condition, and any other supportive materials.

§ 722.119 Medical presumptions.

Section 411(c) of part B of title IV of the Act establishes a series of presumptions which shall be available to claimants for purposes of determining whether a miner's death or total disability was due to pneumoconiosis. No State workmen's compensation law shall be included on the Secretary's list if it does not provide or if regulations promulgated pursuant to such State law do not make available to claimants presumptions which are equivalent to or less restrictive than those presumptions contained in section 411(c) of the Act as set forth below:

(a) If a miner who is suffering or suffered from pneumoconiosis was employed for 10 years or more in one or more coal mines, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that his pneumoconiosis arose out of such employment;

(b) If a deceased miner was employed for 10 years or more in one or more coal mines and died from a respirable disease, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that his death was due to pneumoconiosis;

(c) If a miner is suffering or suffered from a chronic dust disease of the lung which (1) when diagnosed by chest roentgenogram, yields one or more large opacities (greater than one centimeter in diameter) and would be classified in category A, B, or C in the International Classification of Radiographs of the Pneumoconioses by the International Labor Organization, (2) when